

BELGIUM

On January 3, we met with Victoria Nuland, the U.S. Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). We discussed a wide range of topics to include NATO's involvement in Afghanistan, the NATO-Russian dynamic, NATO expanding global partnerships, the EU-NATO relationship, Kosovo and missile defense.

On January 4, we departed for our return to the United States.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, January 2, 2008.

Hon. BAN KI-MOON,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
New York, NY.

DEAR SECRETARY-GENERAL: In light of the uncertainty on who assassinated former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the impact of her assassination on the pending Pakistani elections, I urge the United Nations, either alone or in conjunction with the Musharraf government of Pakistan, to appoint an investigating commission.

Since President Musharraf has already suggested an international investigation, joint action by the U.N. would be consistent with Pakistani sovereignty. Even without the voluntary joinder of the Musharraf government, it is obvious that a U.N. investigation would have greater public credibility.

In making this recommendation, I recollect the action taken by President Lyndon Johnson within seven days after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy to appoint an independent investigating commission.

As you may know, Representative Patrick Kennedy, member of the U.S. House of Representatives (D-RI), and I were scheduled to meet with Ms. Bhutto at 9 p.m. on Thursday, December 27th. She had called for that late meeting because she was fully engaged in campaigning that day. As Representative KENNEDY and I were preparing to depart for a dinner with President Musharraf at 7 p.m. and the later meeting with Ms. Bhutto, we were informed of her assassination.

I am further concerned by a report in the Boston Globe from January 2, 2008 picking up a Washington Post story by Griff Witte and Emily Wax which says:

"Senator Latif Khosa, a lawmaker from Bhutta's Pakistan Peoples Party, said she had planned to give the lawmakers (referring to Representative KENNEDY and myself) a report outlining complaints an 'pre-poll rigging' by Musharraf's government and the military-run Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate."

In a matter of this sort it is to be expected, based on what happened following the assassination of President Kennedy, to have a wide range of allegations and conspiracy theories.

It would be expected that expert investigative bodies like the FBI and Scotland Yard and other national, reputable investigating organizations would be willing to undertake such an investigation under the name of the United Nations.

Sincerely,

ARLEN SPECTER.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, January 22, 2008.

Hon. SARFRAZ KHAN LASHARI,
Election Monitor,
Pakistan People's Party

DEAR MR. LASHARI: It is my understanding that Ms. Bhutto may have intended to present me with a report detailing election fraud in Pakistan's upcoming election at the time of our scheduled meeting on December 27, 2007.

According to a January 1, 2008 article in The Guardian, you told reporters, "That's what she was going to explain to the U.S. Senators." "We have a lot of evidence that the government is involved in rigging. It was going to be discussed on that evening." I am very interested in examining any material that your party may have prepared for my review.

Americans are closely watching what is happening in Pakistan. Any help you can provide in shedding light on this tragic event may further the investigation into Ms. Bhutto's death, as well as help to ensure that the upcoming elections are free and fair.

I Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

My best.

Sincerely,

ARLEN SPECTER.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

MR. ASIF ALI ZARDARI: Please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of your wife.

Since my wife and I first visited your wife in Kurachi some twenty years ago, and in follow-up meetings when she was Prime Minister in Islamabad and thereafter in Washington, I have had great respect and admiration for her.

As you may know, Representative Patrick Kennedy and I were scheduled to meet with Ms. Bhutto at 9 p.m. on December 27, 2007, and were shocked by the assassination. I have noted in the press that the Honorable Sarfraz Khan Lashari was quoted in a January 1, 2008 article in the Guardian that Ms. Bhutto was going to turn over evidence of election-rigging to Representative Kennedy and me at our meeting.

With this letter, I am enclosing for you a copy of my letter to Mr. Lashari.

If you have any such evidence in your possession and would care to transmit it to me, I would be very pleased to receive it.

I am sure you will be interested to know that I wrote to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on January 2, 2008 calling for an international investigation of the assassination. I have not yet had a response.

I am also writing today to the UN Secretary General urging that the United Nations set up a standing investigating commission which would be available to move quickly to investigate any future assassinations.

With this letter I am enclosing copies of both those letters for you.

Again, my condolences. Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

My best.

Sincerely,

ARLEN SPECTER.

AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY CENTER

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I wish to discuss the current situation with regard to siting of the American Revolution Center at Valley Forge, a museum dedicated to interpreting, honoring, and celebrating the complete story of the entire American Revolution, within Valley Forge National Historical Park in Pennsylvania.

I have been working with the American Revolution Center for a number of years, and there has been no shortage of challenges. The current challenge is related to zoning issues in Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County. The township has approved a zoning ordinance to enable development of the

American Revolution Center on a 78-acre parcel of land that is within the federally authorized boundary of Valley Forge National Historical Park but not owned by the National Park Service. The 78-acre parcel is part of a larger 125-acre tract of land that is in danger of housing development. Not only would the American Revolution Center, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, develop a museum dedicated to the Revolutionary War, but it would also preserve the remaining 47 acres as open space.

I have supported appropriating Federal funding to acquire the aforementioned land that is in jeopardy of residential development. In fiscal year 2005, I helped secure \$1.5 million for the National Park Service to begin acquiring 85 acres that were related to the 125-acre tract that is now connected with the American Revolution Center. In fiscal years 2006 and 2007, I supported the appropriation of \$9 million and \$3.1 million, respectively, for the Park Service to complete the 125-acre acquisition. However, due to increasing fiscal constraints, no funding was available at that time to continue the project. Additionally, in fiscal year 2004, I helped secure \$5 million for the National Park Service to acquire other land within the Valley Forge boundary to also prevent it from housing development.

By the American Revolution Center taking possession of this land, it is easing the financial and obligatory burden of the Federal Government to preserve this sacred ground. Additionally, I am confident that those in charge of the administration of the American Revolution Center will be responsible stewards of the historical integrity of the land and ensure its conservation for generations to come. I am also confident that the Lower Providence Township managers, the local governing branch, will appropriately manage the zoning ordinance for the 125-acre tract under current direction of the American Revolution Center to guarantee its conservation should the museum ever vacate the property.

Thus, recognizing the importance of Valley Forge to the founding of the United States, the creation of a museum to celebrate its history and preserve the park's integrity is a positive development. Local government decisions regarding private land use ought to be respected, and I strongly urge the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and the American Revolution Center to work cooperatively to expedite the creation of this museum, which is long overdue.

U.S. SENATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS UPDATE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to inform all Senators that the Committee on Rules and Administration has updated the U.S. Senate Travel Regulations to include two changes.

First, P.L. 110-81 requires the Rules Committee to make certain changes to